

REMARKS

Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of the present application in view of the foregoing amendments and in view of the reasons that follow.

Status of Claims:

Claims 7, 14-19, 21, 22, 24 and 25 are currently being canceled.

Claims 1, 3, 5, 8, 13, 20, 23 and 26 are currently being amended.

Claim 27 is currently being added. Support for new claim 27 may be found in paragraph 0031 of the specification and in Figure 4A of the drawings.

This amendment amends, adds and cancels claims in this application. A detailed listing of all claims that are, or were, in the application, irrespective of whether the claims remain under examination in the application, is presented, with an appropriate defined status identifier.

After amending the claims as set forth above, claims 1-6, 8-13, 20, 23 and 26-27 are now pending in this application.

Objection to Claim 8:

In the Office Action, claim 8 was objected to because of informalities noted on page 2 of the Office Action. Claim 8 has been amended to correct those informalities.

35 U.S.C. Section 112, 2nd Paragraph Rejection of Claims 1-26:

In the Office Action, claims 1-26 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. Section 112, 2nd paragraph, as being indefinite, for the reasons set forth on pages 2-4 of the Office Action. By way of this amendment and reply, the claims have been amended to recite a common scan line, thereby overcoming this rejection.

Claim Rejections – Prior Art:

In the Office Action, claims 14-19, 21-24 and 26 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. Section 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,065,441 to Yamamoto et al. This rejection is traversed with respect to the presently pending claims under rejection, for at least the reasons given below.

First, with respect to claim 1, that claim has been amended to include the features of claim 7, whereby, based on the indications made in the previous Office Action mailed February 2, 2005, this should place claim 1 in allowable form.

Claim 5 has been amended so that it now corresponds to its version that was indicated as being allowed in the previous Office Action mailed February 2, 2005. Thus, claim 5 is now believed to be in allowable form.

Similarly, claim 20 has been amended so that it now corresponds to its version that was indicated as being allowed in the previous Office Action mailed February 2, 2005. Thus, claim 20 is now believed to be in allowable form.

Lastly, claim 23 has been amended so that it now includes the features of claim 25, whereby, based on the indications made in the previous Office Action mailed February 2, 2005, this should place claim 23 in allowable form.

Claims 14-19, 21, 22 and 24 have been canceled to thereby moot the prior art rejection of those claims.

Since claim 26 depends from claim 23, that claim is also believed to be in allowable form.

New Claim 27:

New claim 27 has been added to recite an additional feature of the present invention that is believed to provide a separate basis for patentability of that claim, beyond the reasons given above for its base claim.

Conclusion:

Since all of the issues raised in the Office Action have been addressed in this Amendment and Reply, Applicants believe that the present application is now in condition for allowance, and an early indication of allowance is respectfully requested.

The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned by telephone if it is felt that a telephone interview would advance the prosecution of the present application.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required regarding this application under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16-1.17, or credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account No. 19-0741. Should no proper payment be enclosed herewith, as by a check being in the wrong amount, unsigned, post-dated, otherwise improper or informal or even entirely missing, the Commissioner is authorized to charge the unpaid amount to Deposit Account No. 19-0741. If any extensions of time are needed for timely acceptance of papers submitted herewith, Applicants hereby petition for such extension under 37 C.F.R. §1.136 and authorizes payment of any such extensions fees to Deposit Account No. 19-0741.

Respectfully submitted,

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